

# Common Persimmon *Diospyros virginiana*

**Persimmon**, an easy-to-grow tree, is adaptable to much of North Carolina. The ornamental beauty of its orange fruit and bright red foliage in the fall makes it an attractive plant in the home landscape. Avoid planting where fruits can fall on sidewalk and patios

**FORM:** Persimmon trees can grow from 25 to 60 feet tall and 20 to 35 feet wide, with an oval or pyramidal form. Asymmetrical with a moderately dense crown.

**LEAVES:** The leaves are simple and alternate, 2"-6" long. Dark green, turning to a good yellow to reddish-purple in fall.



**FRUITS:** female trees produce 1"-1.5" edible berries, yellow to pale orange, ripening after frost in late September through October and persisting into November-December. Fruits are eaten by wildlife; horses are said to have died from eating too many fruits. Used to make persimmon pudding, a traditional desert.

**PLANTING:** Full sun, ph adaptable. Tolerant of drought and wet soils, but prefers moist, well-drained, sandy soils. Avoid planting too deep, and mulch and irrigate frequently after planting.

**OTHER:** Persmimmon is related to ebony, and its wood is heavy, hard, strong, and close-grained, and used for golf clubs and a variety of other products. No serious pests or diseases.



## FLOWERS:

Persimmon trees are usually either male or female, but some trees have both male and female flowers.

Whitish, shaped like blueberry flowers, and fragrant.

**BARK:** blackish and deeply fissured into square or rectangular blocks.

